

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Global Science Forum



Report on the
Workshops on Future Large-Scale Projects and
Programmes in Astronomy and Astrophysics

EXPLORING THE COSMIC FRONTIER: Astrophysical Instruments for the 21st Century
Berlin, May 21, 2004

Presentation by Stefan Michalowski, OECD

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Global Science Forum

Through the Global Science Forum, senior government officials develop findings and action recommendations on specific science policy issues.

Recent topics:

- High-Energy Physics
- Science Education
- High-Intensity Lasers
- Radio Astronomy
- Neuroinformatics
- Structural Genomics

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development **Global Science Forum**

All Global Science Forum activities result in a publicly-available policy-level report containing findings and action recommendations for governments, inter-governmental organisations, or the international scientific community.

[**www.oecd.org/sti/gsf**](http://www.oecd.org/sti/gsf)

What are the main issues that are relevant to planning large projects and programmes in astronomy for the next 20-30 years?

Focus on science policy: priority-setting, planning, funding, international cooperation

OECD workshops bring together scientists and representatives of funding agencies

Examine emerging trends, formulate findings and recommendations for governments and for the scientific community

Do not attempt to prioritise scientific challenges or specific projects

Two workshops:

- December 2003 in Munich
- February 2004 in Washington DC area

Attendees: Government-appointed delegations from 17 OECD countries, 3 non-OECD countries (India, Chile, Brazil), ESO, IAU, invited experts, OECD staff

Chair: Dr. Ian Corbett (ESO)

Preparations supervised by international Steering Committee

Major space agencies declined to attend

Report will be available in Summer 2004

Consensus written report will be available in Summer 2004. Its likely elements are:

- Major scientific challenges, emphasising links to other fields
- Evolving role of large projects
- Relationship between ground- and space-based observations
- Potential development of a consensus scientific vision for big projects, and of a technology vision
- Maintaining and sharing of large databases
- Legal/managerial/organisational issues for large international projects
- Evaluation and protection of observing sites